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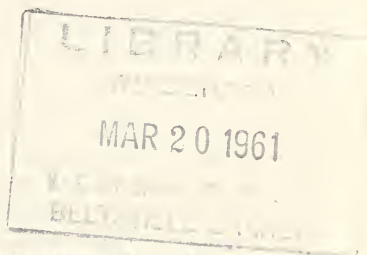
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Agricultural Situation

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INVENTORY SHOWS CATTLE UP, HOGS AND SHEEP DOWN

This past January 1 there were 1 percent more cattle and calves on farms and ranches than a year earlier. Hog numbers were 6 percent lower and sheep numbers 1 percent lower. The number of chickens (excluding commercial broilers) declined 3 percent from a year earlier, but turkey numbers increased 21 percent.

The total inventory value of livestock and poultry on January 1, 1961, was \$15.5 billion, 2 percent more than a year earlier and 13 percent above the 1950-59 average for January 1.

Relatively favorable prices and ample feed supplies will probably lead to increases in the output of livestock and livestock products during 1961. Farmers have already reported intentions to produce more spring pigs and more poultry this year than last. The calf and lamb crops will probably equal or exceed last year as the number of cows and ewes on hand are up 1 percent. Current indications are that most of these changes will not be large and that prices will probably average close to last year's.



INVENTORY—Continued

Cattle . . .

Cattle and calf numbers totaled 97.1 million head on January 1, 1961—up 1 percent from a year earlier.

During 1960 the number of milk cows and dairy replacement heifers declined for the seventh straight year. The decline was, however, the smallest during the period. The number of cows, heifers, and heifer calves kept for milk was 13 percent below average.

Other cattle, mostly beef-type, registered an increase for the third straight year. The number of other cattle on January 1, 1961 was 19 percent above the 10-year average.

The number of cattle on feed at the beginning of the year was at a record high, up 6 percent from a year earlier.

Commercial cattle slaughter in 1960 totaled 25.1 million head, 10 percent more than in 1959. Calf slaughter totaled 8 million head, up 7 percent from 1959.

The makeup of the cattle inventory this past January indicates that, barring drought or other conditions that would lead to heavy marketings, cattle slaughter will increase moderately in 1961, with much of the gain in fed cattle.

Hence, cattle prices will probably be relatively stable again this year and average close to last year's prices. In 1960, the monthly average price received by farmers for beef cattle ranged from \$19.10 to \$21.80 per 100 pounds.

Hogs . . .

On January 1, 1961, the hog inventory totaled 55.3 million head, 6 percent fewer than a year earlier, reflect-

ing a 17 percent decline in the 1960 spring pig crop and a 3 percent decline in the fall pig crop. The number of hogs and pigs under 6 months of age on January 1 was down only 2 percent from a year earlier. Sow and gilt numbers were up 4 percent, reflecting farmers' intentions for an increase in the spring pig crop. The number of market hogs over 6 months old (excluding sows and gilts for breeding) was 25 percent smaller than a year earlier.

Hog slaughter can be expected to be smaller than last year until marketings of spring pigs begin this summer.

At this time hog slaughter will rise to or above a year earlier. Hence, hog prices will continue above a year earlier for several months. This summer they may average about like last summer. The fall decline in hog prices is not expected to be large, but prices will be below last fall.

Sheep . . .

The January 1 stock sheep inventory totaled 28.7 million head, 1 percent below a year earlier, but with that exception the largest since 1948. The number of ewes 1 year old and over was up 1 percent, while ewe lamb numbers were down 11 percent. Wether and ram lamb numbers were up 22 percent.

Total stock sheep numbers increased in the 13 Western States to the highest level since 1948. Numbers were down 3 percent, however, in the 35 Native sheep States.

The number of sheep and lambs on feed for market totaled 4.3 million head, 2 percent fewer than a year earlier.

If flock numbers do not change much during 1961, which seems the most

(continued on page 14)

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CITRUS PRODUCTION: TRENDS IN THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY

Production of citrus fruits in the United States increased from about 3 million tons in 1935-36 to a high of 8.3 million in 1956-57—a near tripling in output. Although production has been cut by unfavorable weather in recent years, it is expected to attain new heights in the 1960's.

Since 1935, production of the more important citrus fruits—oranges, grapefruit, lemons, tangerines, tangelos, and limes—trended upward, with most of the increases occurring in the first half of the period.

Oranges, the leader in volume of citrus fruits produced, trended upward most sharply. Production of grapefruit, second in volume, also increased sharply until the late 1940's. Then it declined abruptly to the level of the early 1940's due to freeze damage to fruit and trees in Texas. Since 1935, output of lemons and tangerines has more than doubled, with most of the increases occurring in the first half of the period.

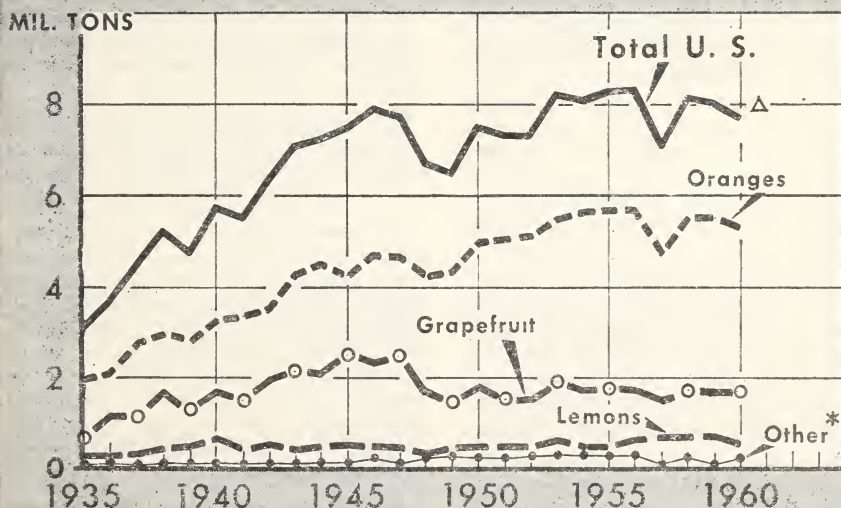
In 1959-60, production of citrus fruits totaled 8 million tons. The total was made up as follows: Oranges, 69 percent; grapefruit, 20 percent; lemons, 9 percent; and tangerines, tangelos and limes, 2 percent.

From 1935-36 to 1944-45, California led the States in production of oranges. Since 1944-45, however, production in California has declined, due mainly to the removal of orange groves to make way for urban and industrial expansion, airfields, highways and the like.

In contrast, production in Florida has trended sharply upward from 1935-36 to 1953-54, and since has not changed greatly. Production in Florida surpassed that in California in 1945-46 and in recent years has been about 2 to 3 times that in California.

Our 1959-60 orange crop was about 127 million boxes, the equivalent of 5.5 million tons. Of this tonnage, Florida produced 75 percent; California, 22 per-

PRODUCTION OF CITRUS FRUITS



SEASON BEGINNING YEAR SHOWN.
△ DECEMBER 1, 1960 ESTIMATES.

*TANGERINES, TANGELOS AND LIMES.
1959 PRELIMINARY.

CITRUS—Continued

cent; and Texas, Arizona, and Louisiana, 3 percent.

In Florida, the leading grapefruit-producing State, output of grapefruit trended upward from 1935-36 to 1953-54, then tended to decline. The reductions of recent years were due partly to the freeze of 1957-58. In Texas, which is second only to Florida in production of grapefruit, output trended upward until the freezes of 1948-49 and 1950-51, then dropped abruptly. It has increased slowly since 1951-52 as newly planted trees started to bear.

The 1959-60 grapefruit crop was about 42 million boxes or 1.6 million tons. Production of this crop by States was as follows: Florida, 75 percent; Texas, 13 percent; and Arizona and California, 12 percent.

Processing . . .

A striking feature of the citrus economy of the past quarter century has been a strong upward trend in the use of citrus for processing. About 9 percent of all citrus was processed in 1935-36 and about 57 percent in 1959-60. In contrast, fresh use increased only until the mid-1940's, then declined. Processors used the following percentages of the 1959-60 U.S. citrus crops: Oranges, 64 percent; grapefruit, 42; lemons, 48; tangerines, 19; tangelos, 16; and limes, 38 percent.

Of the Florida oranges marketed over the 25 years, use for processing increased from a little over 1 percent in 1935-36 to 77 percent in 1959-60. The latter included use for frozen concentrate, which alone took 57 percent of sales.

In California, processing took 5 percent of sales in 1935-36, expanded to 30 percent in 1950-51, then declined to 27 percent in 1959-60. Fresh use continued as the major outlet for California oranges in contrast to the marked shift from fresh to processed in Florida.

The volume of Florida grapefruit marketed fresh did not change greatly from 1935-36 to the late 1940's, but it then increased considerably as supplies from Texas became unusually small. In contrast, processing of Florida

grapefruit increased considerably until the late 1940's and then leveled off.

Since 1935-36, fresh use of California lemons has not changed greatly, but use for processing has increased substantially. In recent years, not quite as many grapefruit and lemons were processed as were used fresh.

The increased use of citrus for processing since 1935-36 has been accompanied by increased packs of various citrus products and a rising trend in per capita consumption of processed citrus. Per capita consumption of fresh citrus increased until 1944-45 and then declined. In 1960, per capita consumption of processed citrus was about 53 pounds (fresh equivalent basis) and that of fresh citrus was about 34 pounds.

Ben H. Pubols
Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

USDA Fact Book Now Is Available

Agricultural Statistics, 1960—annual handbook of farm facts issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture—is off the press.

It's a 600-page book of tables on agricultural production, supplies, costs, and income. It also includes statistics on weather, freight rates, forestry, fisheries, world crops, and foreign trade.

For Hawaii, there are statistics on land use, marketings, and value of crops and livestock. Some information also is given on Alaska's agriculture.

The book is divided into 11 chapters: Grain; cotton, sugar, and tobacco; oilseeds, fats, and oils; fruits, vegetables, melons, tree nuts, and beverage crops; hay, seeds, and minor field crops; cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, and mules, dairy and poultry products; farm resources, income, and expenses; agricultural conservation and forestry statistics; consumption and family living; and miscellaneous statistics.

Agricultural Statistics, 1960, is available for \$1.75 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

OUTLOOK



Dairy

Milk production in 1961 is likely to exceed the 1960 total of 122.9 billion pounds. Contributing to the prospective rise is the steady uptrend in output per cow.

Prices to farmers for milk of manufacturing grade averaged \$3.26 per hundredweight in 1960, up 2.8 percent from 1959. The increase was largely due to a strong demand for milk for making American cheddar cheese.

Potatoes

Supplies of old crop potatoes are moderately larger than last winter and production of new crop potatoes for winter harvest is up sharply from the small crop of last winter. Prices of old crop round white potatoes as well as new crop winter potatoes are likely to average materially lower this winter than last. Prices for russet type potatoes probably will average moderately below those of last winter.



Feed

Feed consumption so far this marketing year has been heavy. Total disappearance of feed grains probably will set a record for the entire feeding year because of prospective increases in hog and poultry output in 1961 and continued liberal feeding of livestock

on farms. Total stocks of feed grains on January 1 increased to 183 million tons, 8 percent more than a year earlier. Even after allowing for the heavier disappearance, carryover into 1961-62 of the 4 feed grains is expected to top the 75 million tons of the previous year by 8 to 10 million.



Tobacco

Prices for the 1960 crops of flue-cured and burley tobaccos averaged $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$ percent, respectively, above 1959. For most kinds of tobacco, 1961 acreage allotments are the same as in 1960, but for burley they are increased 6 percent.

Fruit

Grower prices of most citrus fruits in January and (early February) were substantially above a year ago, partly in response to strong processor demand. Stocks of apples are smaller this season than last, and prices are higher than in early 1960.

Fats and Oils

Since last fall, soybean and cottonseed oil prices have been well above year-ago levels, and are expected to rise further during the rest of the marketing year. Outlook for higher edible oil prices stems from: (1) A new high in domestic consumption; (2) Record

OUTLOOK



Continued

exports, partly stimulated by record shipments abroad under government-financed programs. As part of the Food for Peace program, USDA will make available in 1961 up to 100 million pounds of refined vegetable oils for needy persons overseas. This is the first time since 1956, when CCC stocks were exhausted, that vegetable oils have been made available for foreign donation.

Sweetpotatoes

Production and unloads indicate that remaining supplies of sweetpotatoes are substantially smaller than a year ago. With demand about the same as last season, prices for these smaller supplies are likely to continue well above those of a year earlier.



Wheat

In early February, cash wheat prices at terminal markets were at or near their highs for the marketing year to date. Following that time, wheat prices dropped as a result of increased marketings from free supplies. Although disappearance of wheat in July-December 1960 was 12 percent above the same period of 1959, the carryover next July 1 will be about 1½ billion bushels compared to 1.3 billion a year earlier.

Broilers

Broiler production in 1961 is expected to exceed the 1.8 billion birds of 1960. Recent chick hatchings for broiler output are running above a year ago. So is the buildup in the number of breeder hens.

Broiler prices in mid-January were 16.5 cents per pound—up 0.7 cent from the previous month but down by the same amount from the previous year. Prices in many producing areas moved sharply upward to mid-February.

Eggs

Higher egg prices than a year earlier are mainly the result of smaller egg production, caused by reduction in the size of the laying flock and the cold weather. Although production is likely to continue below 1960 levels until about mid-year, it is rising seasonally.



Vegetables

Supplies of fresh vegetables are likely to be smaller this winter than last. Despite some spotted damage from the cold in Florida, larger output is expected for tender items including sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, snap beans, and eggplant. Prospective supplies of broccoli are also up. Supplies of a number of the hardier items, including carrots and celery, are likely to be substantially smaller than the heavy supplies of last winter. Cabbage and lettuce are also expected to be down moderately. Supplies of frozen vegetables are substantially larger than a year ago, but those of canned items are moderately smaller.



Livestock

Moderately larger meat output this year than last is in prospect. Mainly responsible are increases in 1960 cattle inventories plus an expected uptrend in hog production. The larger inventories are expected to result in some increase in marketings in 1961. Livestock prices will probably average close to 1960 levels.

MILK PRODUCTION MOVED UP LAST YEAR

Our cows produced around 122.9 billion pounds of milk in 1960, about 1 percent more than in 1959. The upturn in production in 1960 followed 3 years of decline from the record high of 124.9 billion pounds in 1956. Milk production has been lagging behind population growth since World War II. Production per capita in 1960 was 683 pounds compared with the record high of 856 pounds in 1945.

Most of the increase in milk production in 1960 occurred in the North Atlantic and Western regions. New York and Pennsylvania accounted for most of the 3-percent increase in the North Atlantic region. Most of the 3 percent gain in the West was in California and Washington.

Milk production showed little change from 1959 in the important North Central area. Wisconsin, which has led the States in milk production since estimates were started in 1924, accounted for 15 percent of the U.S. total in 1960. New York and Minnesota have been long-standing rivals for second place and were virtually tied in 1960. California and Pennsylvania have ranked fourth and fifth for the last 7 years.

Changes in milk production are small compared with other farm products, usually less than 2 percent from year to year. On the other hand, long-term trends in milk cow numbers and milk output per cow are remarkably persistent.

Milk cow numbers have declined each year since 1944, except for one-year upturn in 1953. The 1960 production, exceeded in only three other years, was produced by 17.5 million milk cows, the smallest number in the series of estimates beginning with 1924. However, the decline in cow numbers from 1959 to 1960 was only 2 percent, compared

with annual decreases of 4 to 5 percent in each of the three preceding years.

Milk cow numbers in the important dairy areas of the country showed a tendency toward leveling out in 1960. Throughout the North Atlantic region, 1960 cow numbers were practically unchanged from 1959. In the important East North Central region, the decline was only 1 percent, with little change in Ohio and Wisconsin. Milk cow numbers held up well in Minnesota in 1960, but dropped significantly in all other States of the West Central region, making a regional decline of 3 percent. Other regional declines were 2 percent in the South Atlantic and 5 percent in the South Central. Most Western States showed little change in milk cow numbers from 1959.

Annual milk production per cow has set new records each year since 1944, increasing more than 50 percent during the 16-year period to 7,004 pounds in 1960. For the last 6 years, there has been a consistent annual increase of 3 to 4 percent in milk output per cow. The increase in 1960 was 3 percent in all regions except the South Atlantic with 2 percent, and the East North Central with 1 percent.

The 1959 Census of Agriculture showed a total of only 1.8 million farms keeping milk cows in 1959, down 39 percent from 1954. The average drop of about 8 percent a year in farms with milk cows during this period was the fastest decline on record. Only 48 percent of all farms enumerated in 1959 kept milk cows, compared with 61 percent in 1954. However, the number of farms where milk is the major source of farm income, decreased only 22 percent to 428,000 in 1959.

Gordon G. Butler
Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS



SOYBEAN PRICES EXPECTED TO REMAIN WELL ABOVE LAST YEAR

The average price farmers received for soybeans rose from \$1.94 a bushel last October to \$2.48 in February. Over the period they averaged about \$2.12, compared with \$1.98 a year earlier. Soybean oil and soybean meal prices have shown similar increases since last fall.

The strength of soybean prices during the current marketing year reflects strong export and crusher demand for the reduced supply of beans that are available this year. Carryover stocks of soybeans next October 1, are expected to be at the lowest level since 1956.

Most of the seasonal rise in soybean prices probably has already occurred. Prices, nevertheless, are expected to remain relatively firm through the spring, averaging well above last year. The high market prices of soybeans at planting time is the major factor expected to encourage soybean acreage expansion in 1961.

Supplies of soybeans for the 1960-61 marketing year are placed at 582 million bushels, compared with 595 million the year before. The 1960 soybean crop was up 5 percent, but carryover stocks of old crop beans last October 1, were 23 million bushels—only about a third as much as the 62 million bushels on October 1, 1959.

Soybean crushings from this past October through February are estimated at 181 million bushels, about 11 million above the year before. Crushings for the entire 1960-61 season probably will total around 400 million bushels, compared with 392 million in 1959-60. The trade places soybean crushing capacity in 1960-61 at about 525 million bushels, compared with 500 million the past season.

Heavy crushings this year reflect strong domestic demand for edible vegetable oils as well as for protein feeds. Record exports of edible oils are also stimulating the crush. Exports have been encouraged by a heavy movement in purchases of oil for ex-

port under government-financed programs.

Exports of soybean and cottonseed oils in 1960-61 are expected to total about 1,500 million pounds, compared with last year's record 1,459 million. Exports of these edible oils under government programs are estimated at 800 million pounds, compared with 744 million pounds shipped out in 1959-60, an increase great enough to offset any possible decline in dollar sales.

Soybean exports in 1960-61 are expected to approximate the record 142 million bushels that went out last year.

Later this marketing year, soybean exports may fall behind last year's rate as soybean prices remain high and our soybeans meet increased competition in Europe from expanded supplies of peanuts. Exports to Europe might possibly fall off somewhat in 1960-61, but the drop is likely to be offset by expanded shipments to Japan.

Based on a crush of 400 million bushels and exports of 142 million bushels, the carryover of 1960 crop soybeans on October 1, 1961, will be 10 million bushels or fewer.

Soybean oil prices, as well as cottonseed oil prices, are expected to continue firm during the remainder of the marketing year as the supplies of these oils dwindle and become relatively tight. The optimistic outlook for edible oil prices stems from a new high in domestic consumption; record exports stimulated in part by record shipments under government financed programs and donations to needy abroad; and a generally higher level of food fats and oils prices.

The USDA announced in early February that up to 100 million pounds of refined vegetable oils will be made available during 1961 to U.S. non-profit voluntary welfare agencies for the assistance of needy persons overseas. This is part of the Food-for-Peace program.

George W. Kromer
Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

THE 1959 CENSUS SHOWS MORE BIG FARMS BUT FEWER FARMS

We have fewer but larger farms in the United States today. The 1959 Census of Agriculture, conducted by the Bureau of the Census, revealed that there were 3,704,000 farms in 1959—the smallest number reported in any Census (for the 48 States) since 1870. It was 23 percent less than the number of farms counted in the 1954 census.

The number of farms in 1959 was less than in 1954 in every State and in all except 42 counties in the 48 States. Total land in farms dropped from 1,158 million acres in 1954 to 1,120 million in 1959 with the average size of farms up from 242 acres to 302 acres in 1959.

There were 1,079,000 fewer farms in 1959 than there were in 1954. About 232,000 of these places were no longer counted as farms due to a change in the census definition between these dates.

The new definition rules out many small agricultural operations as farms. The number of acres on a place that are producing agricultural products,

and the estimated value of the agricultural products sold are the two considerations that determine whether a place is a farm or not.

The principal change in definition between 1954 and 1959 was raising the minimum acreage from 3 acres to 10 acres. There was a little change in the value criteria also.

Farms with less than 10 acres of productive land are counted as farms if the sales of agricultural products for the year normally amount to at least \$250. The change in farm definition in 1959 had no appreciable effect on the totals for livestock or crops because the places affected by the change ordinarily accounted for less than 1 percent of the totals for any State.

The results of the 1959 Census are evidence of a further concentration and specialization of agriculture in the United States. Even without the change in the definition of a farm, the

NUMBER OF FARMS

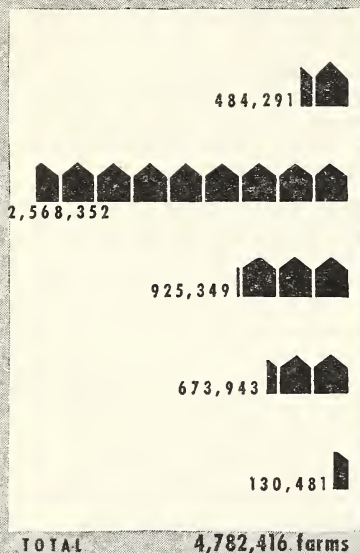


SIZE OF FARMS

(one house represents 300,000 farms)

1954

1959



UNDER
10 ACRES

10 to 139
ACRES

140 to 259
ACRES

260 to 999
ACRES

OVER 1,000
ACRES

240,693

1,863,148

792,203

671,339

136,259

TOTAL 3,703,642 farms

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CENSUS—Continued

changes in farm sizes and numbers between 1954 and 1959 were great. There was a 30 percent drop in the number of farms selling less than \$2,500 worth of products and a 36 percent increase in those selling \$10,000 worth of products or more.

The number of farms having milk cows decreased 39 percent; farms having chickens declined 36 percent, farms raising turkeys went down 49 percent; farms selling eggs dropped 37 percent, farms raising vegetables for sale decreased 35 percent, farms harvesting Irish potatoes dropped 52 percent; farms harvesting cotton were 41 percent fewer.

Farms of less than 10 acres declined 50 percent during the five years, largely because of the definition change. Most of the decrease from 1954 in the number of farms occurred in farms having less than 220 acres.

Farms 10 to 69 acres in size decreased in numbers by almost three-fourths of

a million during the 5-year period. More than 70 percent of this decrease occurred in the 16 Southern States where there was a lot of reorganization of individual farm operations due to the decline in the numbers of share tenants and croppers.

Only farms of 260 acres or more increased in number in the five year interim. Specialization in the larger farming units progressed at a faster rate than during any 5-year period in history.

As farm mechanization of agricultural operations has grown, farms have decreased in number. Farm operators have found themselves able to handle more land. In 1925, there were more than 63,000 farms of 1,000 acres and over in the 48 States. By 1959, this number had increased to over 136,000. The number of farms 500 acres and over increased 62 percent during the last 35 years and now comprise 9 percent of the farms in the 48 States.

R. K. Smith
Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS

LAMB AND CALF CROPS BOTH UP 1 PERCENT IN 1960

LAMBS

The 21,323,000 lambs produced in the United States during 1960 represented a 1-percent increase from 1959 and a 10-percent increase from the 1949-58 average. The increase from 1959 resulted from a 3-percent increase in ewes on hand since there was a 2-point drop in lambing percentage.

The number of breeding ewes 1 year old and older on farms and ranches on January 1, 1960, was 3 percent above 1959. Ewe lambs under 1 year old were approximately the same as for January 1, 1959.

The 1960 lamb crop percentage (number of lambs saved per 100 ewes, 1 year old and older on farms and ranches January 1) was 95 which is 2 points below the previous year but 3 points above the average.

The 1960 lamb crop in the 13 Western sheep States (11 Western, South Dakota, and Texas) totaled 13,906,000 head—3 percent above the 13,467,000 lambs produced in 1959 and 13 percent above average. The number of breeding ewes 1 year old and older on farms and ranches on January 1, 1960, was 5 percent above 1959. The number of lambs per 100 ewes at 91 was 1 point below a year earlier. In Texas, where approximately 15 percent of the Nation's lambs are produced, the 1960 lamb crop was 4 percent above 1959 and 14 percent above average.

The lamb crop at 7,417,000 head in the 35 Native sheep States (excluding the 13 Western States) was 3 percent below 1959, but 6 percent above average. A decline in both the number of breeding ewes and the lambing percentage resulted in the smaller lamb crop. The number of ewes 1 year old and older on farms January 1, 1960, was 2 percent below 1959 and the number of lambs saved per 100 ewes was 104—2 points below a year earlier.

Frasier T. Galloway
Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS

CALVES

The Nation's calf crop totaled 39.3 million head in 1960, 1 percent more than the 1959 calf crop and the 1949-58 average. The increase for 1960 was the second year of increase after the downtrend in calf crops from 1955 through 1958. All regions, except the South Atlantic, show larger calf crops in 1960 than the year before.

The increased calf crop was due primarily to a larger number of cows and heifers on farms. Cows and heifers 2 years old and older January 1, 1960, totaled 45.9 million head, compared with 45.2 million head a year earlier. By January 1, 1961, the number of cows and heifers 2 years old or older had increased to 46.3 million head. The number of calves born in 1960, expressed as a percent of the cows and heifers 2 years old and older January 1, 1960, was 86 percent, the same as for 1959 and the 1949-58 average.

In the North Central States, the calf crop totaled 16.0 million head, slightly higher than in 1959, but 3 percent below the 10-year average. Last year's calf crop for this region was 89 percent of the cows and heifers 2 years old and older the first of the year—the same as in 1959.

In the South Atlantic States the 1960 calf crop at 3.0 million head was 2 percent below 1959. However, in the South Central States the calf crop last year was 10.5 million head—3 percent higher than in 1959. The calf crop as a percent of cows and heifers 2 years old and older was 77 percent (down 1 point) in the South Atlantic States, and 83 percent in the South Central States—unchanged from a year earlier. The 1960 crop in the Western States totaled 6.9 million head, 1 percent more than in 1959. The calf crop as a percent of cows 2 years old and older the beginning of the year was 86 percent compared with 88 percent in 1959. In the North Atlantic States the 1960 calf crop amounted to 2.8 million head—1 percent above 1959.

Dan L. Herbert
Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS

Intentions Report

What are farmers going to plant in 1961? March intentions report, released March 17, will give you reliable estimates for the 16 principal spring-sown crops that account for about four-fifths of the total acreage of all crops grown in this country.

The report shows the acres farmers intended to plant to corn, spring wheat, oats, barley, soybeans, flaxseed, rice, sorghum, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, tobacco, dry beans and peas, peanuts and sugar beets along with the acreage of crops and grasses to be cut for hay.

The 1961 intentions report will aid farmers in completing their plans for this year.

The 80,000 farmers who received and filled out March questionnaires probably kept the huge 1960 production and its possible effect on prices and government programs in mind when they reported their 1961 intentions.

The March intentions report shows the combined plans of all farmers in all States. Farmers who fill out the questionnaires, thereby furnishing the basic data for the report, may also change their planting plans after reading the report. In fact, the report is issued early so you can shift intended acreage for a particular crop to other crops, if after studying all the facts, you deem it wise to do so.

Is the intentions report a good indication of crop acreages? History shows that over the past 10-year period the report has been an excellent indicator of the acreage actually planted. Intentions for most crops have averaged within 2 or 3 percent of the final acreage planted.

Report Available . . .

If you received the questionnaire, you will get the report. If you did not get a questionnaire, and you want the report, write your State statistician. Whatever your plans are for 1961 the Crop Reporting Board hopes you have success.

Charles E. Burkhead
Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS

FARMERS STEP UP THEIR FEEDING RATES

Producers have been getting "more" out of their livestock and poultry in recent years—more meat, milk, and eggs per head. To do it, they've had to feed more grain, high-protein feeds, and other concentrates.

In the past 20 years, feed concentrates fed annually per *animal unit* increased about 40 percent. The *animal unit*, a measure of the grain consuming capacity of livestock and poultry, is roughly equivalent to one dairy cow.

The increase has been much greater for high-protein feeds—such as soybean meal, meat meal, fish meal, and gluten feed. The total tonnage of the 11 major high-protein feeds fed per animal unit has about doubled since 1940.

Dairy cows offer a good illustration of this upward trend in feeding. The quantity of grain and other concentrates fed per cow increased nearly 70 percent during the past 20 years. Milk production per cow has gone up over 50 percent. With this higher production, a larger share of the dairy cow's feed comes from feed concentrates and less from roughages.

The increase in the rate of feeding has been more pronounced for dairy cows than for most other types of livestock. However, the increased production of grain-fattened cattle and the marked rise in egg production per hen also have contributed to the upward trend in the quantity of concentrates fed per animal.

The more rapid increase in feeding rates in recent years appears to be due to a number of factors. Feed prices have been low in relation to livestock prices since 1957. This has encouraged liberal feeding. In 1957 and again in 1959 large quantities of wet corn were harvested that resulted in heavier feeding and more than usual loss or waste. Big feed grain crops, well distributed over the country, have also favored liberal feeding because in many areas farmers feed all they produce.

Malcolm Clough
Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS

STACKS OF GRAIN STOCKS

Grain stocks—the corn, oats, barley, wheat, rye, and sorghum grain stored on and off farms—reached new heights on January 1, 1961. The six grains weighed in at 245 million tons, exceeding the previous record of 225 million tons in 1960 and soaring nearly two-thirds above the 1950–59 average for January 1 holdings.

Feed grains—corn, oats, barley, and sorghums—pushed to a record January 1 total of 183 million tons, 8 percent above the previous year. Corn and sorghum grain began the new year with record high stocks. Feed grain holdings on January 1, 1960, totaled 169 million tons. The 10-year average is 111 million tons.

About 60 percent or 109 million tons of the feed grains held this past January 1, were located on farms. Feed grains were heavily concentrated in the North Central States. More than half of the Nation's total stocks were located in Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, and Nebraska.

The Federal Government was the largest feed grain owner—28 percent of the feed grains was owned by Commodity Credit Corporation and another 8 percent was under Government price support.

Food grains—wheat and rye—also reached a record high for January 1. Wheat stocks set a record for the third successive year. Rye holdings were the largest for the date since 1956 and amounted to nearly 26 million bushels. Nearly three-fourths of the total wheat stocks were controlled by CCC (owned or under price support) and more than a fourth of the rye was controlled by CCC.

Corn stocks on January 1 totaled 4,700 million bushels, 7 percent above the previous record and 58 percent above average holdings. Nearly two-thirds of the corn was stored on farms. Corn stocks were concentrated in the Corn Belt with more than one-half of the total located in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska.

Wheat stocks totaled 2,066 million bushels of which about one-fifth was

stored on farms. Two-thirds of the wheat stocks were stored in the Plains States from North Dakota through Texas.

Sorghum grain was the only other commodity to break the 1-billion-bushel mark. Stocks were nearly a fifth above the previous record of a year earlier and were four times the average holdings. Off-farm stocks claimed nearly 80 percent of the total with two-thirds of the Nation's sorghum grain under CCC control. Sorghum grain stocks were heavily concentrated in the Central and Southern Plains States with half the Nation's total located in Texas.

Stocks of oats and barley failed to register any unusual changes, but they were unique in other ways. Oat stocks amounted to 851 million bushels—the only stocks that were smaller than average. Barley stocks totaled 352 million bushels—the only stocks that were smaller than in the previous year. The Government controlled nearly a third of the barley, but only about 5 percent of the oats.

John W. Kirkbride
Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS

REALIZED NET FARM INCOME WENT UP IN 1960

Realized net farm income—the amount farmers have available after they've paid their production expenses—totalled \$11.6 billion in 1960, 3 percent more than in 1959.

The volume of marketings and cash receipts were at all-time highs. A 3 percent increase in marketings pushed cash receipts up to \$33.7 billion, even though prices for all commodities combined were about 1 percent lower.

Production expenses in 1960 rose slightly from 1959.

The Farmer's Share

The farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar was 40 cents in December 1960, the same as it was in November. In December 1959 it was 37 cents.

INVENTORY—Continued

likely prospect, sheep and lamb marketings this year will be about the same as last year. Fewer sheep and lambs on feed January 1 and fewer lambs not on feed will probably mean marketings below a year earlier for several months.

This may, however, be offset by heavier marketings during the last half of the year if the 1961 lamb crop shows an increase. A strong seasonal price rise appears likely for lambs this spring, but prices will probably trend downward during the summer and fall as they usually do. For the year as a whole, prices are expected to average about as high as in 1960.

Chickens . . .

The number of chickens (excluding commercial broilers) on January 1, 1961, totaled 357.9 million head—3 percent fewer than a year earlier. Numbers increased in the West and South Atlantic States, but declined in all other regions. For the country as a whole, the number of hens was up 4 percent from a year earlier, but pullet numbers were down 7 percent.

On February 1 farm flock producers indicated that they intend to purchase 12 percent more baby chicks during the coming year than in 1960.

Commercial broiler production during 1960 in 22 important producing States totaled 1.6 billion birds—the largest number of record for these States and 4 percent more than were produced in 1959. Broilers are not included in the January inventory reports for chickens. Weekly placement reports indicate that a record number for this time of year was being produced in January.

Turkeys . . .

Turkey numbers on January 1 totaled 6.8 million head—21 percent more than a year earlier, reflecting farmers' plans to increase turkey production in 1961, since breeder hens made up over 60 percent of the inventory. The sharpest increase was recorded by the heavy breeds, particularly heavy whites. Light breed numbers were about the same as a year earlier.

Revisions . . .

This year, the Crop Reporting Board revised its preliminary inventory estimates for the years 1955 through 1960. This is done every 5 years after the U.S. Census of Agriculture becomes available. All available data are analyzed State by State, including reports from farmers, information on marketings and slaughter. Year to year changes in numbers assessed and annual State census data are used in States where available.

The differences between the preliminary and the revised estimates of year to year change were almost all less than 2 percent. Most were not more than 1 percent.

Here's how the revised and preliminary figures for 1960 compare: All cattle, the revised figure is 5 percent lower than the preliminary; cows, 2 years old and older kept for milk, 8 percent lower; other cows, 3 percent lower; stock sheep, 2 percent lower; hogs and pigs, 1 percent higher; chickens, 1 percent higher; and turkeys, 1 percent lower.

Robert H. Moats

Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS

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Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

HONEY CROP UP 5 PERCENT

A large honey crop was produced in 1960. In fact, the crop was the third largest of record. A total of over 260 million pounds of honey was produced by 5.4 million bee colonies.

Although the number of colonies was the same in 1960 as in 1959, total honey output was 5 percent greater. Yield per colony averaged 47.9 pounds in 1960 compared with 45.5 pounds in 1959.

The record year for honey production was 1952 when 5 percent more honey was produced than last year. In 1958 production was 2 percent higher than in 1960.

South Atlantic States showed the greatest rise in honey production over 1959—28 percent.

A. K. Potter

Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS

"Bert" Newell's

Letter

A friend of some years back dropped by to see us the other day. He's a little short, round guy that we all like. One of our men greeted him cordially with, "Well, by golly, it's good to see you. You haven't grown a bit in 15 years." Now this little man was a right smart cooky, and he's done quite well, so I contended that maybe he wasn't any taller or any rounder, but he had sure grown in the right places. I have concluded that the only respectable place to outgrow your clothes is in the feet.

Just look! If a guy gets all puffed up with his importance and goes around with a superior-than-thou attitude, we say he's a "swellhead"—he's outgrown his hat. These nose-in-the-air guys may get along in fair weather, but they are apt to drown out quick when a rainstorm comes up. Then the guy who gets "too big for his breeches" is just a plain smart Alec. You know those tiresome individuals who think they know all the answers and are ever ready with a fast comeback whether it fits the situation or not.

But when a fellow outgrows his shoes, that's different. We sort of think of him as a person who has grown all over in good proportion. He's a well balanced, feet-on-the-ground fellow with a broad understanding (That isn't a pun. I don't like puns.)—capable of handling a bigger job. So, it comes down to this: When there's a big job to fill, we don't look for a fellow to fill a big hat or a big pair of breeches, but a person who can fill a big pair of shoes.

We have a pretty big pair of shoes to fill, and we know it. Agriculture is the Nation's biggest business. Everyone has to eat, and I don't know of hardly anyplace where you could get along without clothes—even if the authorities would let you. So, since agriculture provides most of our food and clothing, it is also the Nation's most fundamental business. These supplies come from over 3½ million farms, each an

independent business unit, scattered across the country from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska to Florida. In addition, there are the manufacturers, handlers, etc., who get the products to the consumer. No business can operate effectively without comprehensive, reliable facts on the magnitude of the supplies and prospective supplies.

Agricultural Estimates is responsible for reporting on this vast business. How many acres of this or that or the other thing; average yields per acre; how many cows, hogs, sheep, chickens; how much milk; how many eggs; and forecasts of how much will be available; and—well, that's enough to give you an idea. Quite a job, isn't it? I don't know of any more complex reporting job anywhere.

You'd be downright amazed at the kind of things we get asked for, too. It's nothing at all for people to want acreage and average yields of various crops by counties—and, actually, we have quite a few statistics on this basis; but there are a lot who ask for this same kind of information on units as small as a township or even a small valley along a creek someplace. Of course, we can't get that much detail, and even if we could, there are some situations where we wouldn't give the information out anyway. That's because we have always promised you we'll never turn loose anything that would divulge an individual's business.

Now in our kind of work we can't afford to get "snooty" or be the "smart Alec's." We know that in working with sample material there is always the thing I've told you about: statistical error. Of course, there are times when we hit an estimate smack on the head, we might stick our chests out just a little, but not very much because we know only too well another day is coming, and another estimate or forecast might not be quite so precise. No, all we are trying to do is to fill a great big pair of shoes and with your help, give you and the Nation the best unbiased facts we know how on this Nation's biggest and most fundamental business.



S. R. Newell
Chairman, Crop Reporting Board, AMS



Growth Through Agricultural Progress

March 1961

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